

1/12/99

Anniston Talking Points - West Anniston Environmental Justice Task Force

Background:

The Anniston plant, over the past several years, under the oversight of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), has been conducting sampling and analysis for the presence of PCBs in several areas near the plant to assure that PCBs will be properly managed and contained.

We have been for several years and continue to be involved in an extensive and effective remediation program.

- We have spent more than $30 million in our property purchase, relocation, and remediation programs (upgrading existing landfills near the plant, stormwater diversion and impoundment work).

We have been a responsible part of the Anniston community for many years and continue to contribute to the community.

- Habitat for Humanity - Solutia sponsored the first house built under the Anniston Initiative of Habitat for Humanity. Several employees participated in the construction.
- Forever Wild - Over 350 acres of land were donated for environmental conservation.
- Computers for schools - We donated several computers to Cobb Elementary School in West Anniston.

PCBs have not been shown to cause significant adverse human health effects.

- PCBs are environmentally persistent and have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals, but only at doses far in excess of any exposures to anyone in or around the Anniston plant.

PCBs were a useful product that saved lives and protected property.

- The principle use of PCBs was as a fire resistant fluid in transformers and other electrical equipment. Their use in these applications was required for many years by building codes for commercial buildings and other places where fire safety was critical.

Key Points:

The West Anniston petition is a litigation tactic by plaintiffs and their lawyers to call attention to and increase leverage in their lawsuit.

- These claims are based on highly selective bits and pieces from a long, complex history and present a completely inaccurate picture in all respects.
- These are the same claims that plaintiffs have voiced for a long time and are nothing new.

The State of Alabama is providing effective oversight to protect the public's' health and the environment.

- We have worked cooperatively with Alabama agencies - Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) - to address the issues.
- We are confident that the state agencies are handling them very competently and responsibly.
- The remediation project should remain within the purview of the State of Alabama.
- Additional studies and government reviews are not needed now.

We have taken and continue to take responsible and effective action.

- When we discovered the presence of PCBs in adjacent areas, we notified the community and ADEM.
- We undertook a comprehensive sampling program.
- We undertook the Property Purchase Program.
- We have relocated the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church to a new facility.
- A $2.5 million settlement with the Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church gives that congregation the opportunity to relocate to a new site in Anniston and construct and furnish a new facility.
- We undertook an extensive remediation program, under the oversight of ADEM, to address the issues.
- We will continue to take responsible action.

We are responsive to the community in dealing with these issues.

- We have talked and remain willing to talk to members of the community to address these environmental issues.

We have acted reasonably and responsibly and will continue to do so. We will defend our record in court as required.